
Metamora Hunt Newsletter

January, 2011

www.metamorahunt.com

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Metamora Hunt mourns the passing of Robert Hutton and Rosemary Herman:

Rosemary Herman passed away on December 18, 2010 at age 72. She was a woman of warmth, energy, intelligence and strength. She was a math teacher at Seaholm High School from 1961 until her retirement in 1998. She could be a taskmaster, but she wanted the best outcome for her students and friends.

She was always a horse person who rode regularly with the Metamora Hunt and she served numerous times on their board. She was a USEF registered steward and USEF registered dressage technical delegate. She was a regular competitor in Hunter Division Horse shows in the 1950's and 1960's. She was a lector reader at St. Cornelius Catholic Church in Dryden for many years and volunteered as a reader for

Hounds & Hunting

By Joe Kent, MFH

Although our fixture card has run out, hunting will continue as weather permits. At the risk of jinxing the whole thing, conditions are still good. Hunt locations will be announced as we go, hopefully a few days out. Please be sure to call the kennels for updated information. We do things this way so as to avoid disappointing people who agree weeks in advance to host us. It also give us flexibility. It is nice to use the entire Hunt Country when road conditions are conducive to trailering, but pointless to schedule fixtures that are more than a short hack from the kennels if the roads are icy.

Feel free to make needed changes in dress to accommodate low temperatures. We do appreciate something resembling riding apparel in muted colors. The aim is always to show respect for Landowners by being well turned out. This is more likely to make them feel glad to see us. A trip south has not been decided on. We will give ample notice should one materialize.

Your Masters are delighted with the pack and hope that you are too. That said, this is clearly what might be thought of as a rebuilding year. A new Huntsman is a major course change for any Hunt. It takes time to make the needed adjustments and get back to firing on all cylinders. Much fun will still be had this winter, but it is also exciting to look toward next season. We hope that you all share that anticipation.

It was a great pleasure to host nearly two dozen Pony Clubbers, other juniors, and parents at a "Meet the Hounds" session on Sunday, January 2nd. at the kennels. Our enthusiastic guests braved low temperatures and a brisk wind to walk with, pet, and learn the names of some of our more experienced hounds. Their interest was very gratifying. Adrian was in his usual form clarifying that all of our 23 and a half couples are

the blind, recording complex math and science texts for college students. She graduated from Trinity College with graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University. She is survived by her beloved horses, Carmel and Dances with Wolves (Danny) and her best friend and dog Nina, brother Don Herman (Mary), nieces Barbara Middleton, Nevada, Monica Andre, Florida, Carolyn Murray, Florida and nephew, Beck Hartglass, Pennsylvania.

Robert Hutton passed away on December 24, 2010. When Bob Hutton Arrived in Michigan on a chilly November day in 1967, it is doubtful that he knew the influence that he would have or the number of lives that he would touch.

Forty-three years later, countless people who learned horsemanship from him lead fuller and safer lives. They and others who had the good fortune to be his friend feel privileged. He regaled them with stories of eventing and show jumping. He took them inside the rarefied world of the British Cavalry. He asked for high standards of horsemanship, but with encouragement and patience. None who learned from him will ever make the mistake of leading a horse through a barn with the stirrups down, or of approaching a stiff cross country jump with the horse in doubt as to the intended outcome.

Bob began his Michigan career after completing another vastly more demanding one that lasted 22

actually "whole" hounds, and that the old lady in the group was Havoc rather than a parent. To view a wonderful album of photos taken at Meet the Hounds Day by Peter Gilles, just click on:

<http://www.metamorpho.com/gallery/thumbnails-129.html>

Additional News:

Hunt Ball: Around Hunt country, the buzz is all about the Ball. The date for the Hunt Ball is Saturday, January 29th. We have a new location! The Hunt Ball will be held at the fabulous Devil's Ridge Golf Club. We will have a new band this year and an open bar! Please set this evening aside and please plan on bringing some friends for dining, dancing, and fun.

If you have not yet received your invitation in the mail, or if you have not yet donated your item for the silent auction, please contact Marcia Turner (810-796-3359).

Last year, auction items included: hunt prints, equestrian art, riding lessons, gift certificates to local businesses, rounds of golf, antiques, gift baskets, jewelry, wine, and other irresistible goodies.

If you have not been to one of our Balls, expect great conversation, an outstanding meal, lively dancing, a bit of competitive bidding at the silent auction tables (all proceeds going to the benefit of the Metamora hounds), a few (very short) speeches, all in one memorable evening. To view photos from our 2010 Hunt Ball, just click on: www.metamorahunt.com/hunt-ball-2010/

Metamora Pony Club News:

By Linda Short-Lowe

Did you know that Pony Club was formed by a group of avid foxhunters! It began in England in 1928. A group of foxhunters recognized the need for a structured program to teach children a love of equestrian sports, sound riding skills, and also how to care for their own mount. They wanted to ensure that the next generation of foxhunters would have the skills necessary to carry on the sport. Their program was so successful that it quickly spread. In 1954, Pony Club came to the United States. Today clubs can be found in 31 countries around the world! Many of the world's top riders in international competition are Pony Club graduates.

Our home club is off to a fabulous start in 2011. Currently we have eleven official members and expect to welcome four more this week. This past Sunday, club members had an opportunity to walk the hounds and

years in the Life Guards, the senior regiment of the British Army and part of the Household Cavalry of England's Royal Family. He faced great danger and was knocked off the top of an armored vehicle when it ran over a land mine in the Middle East. Along the way, his ceremonial duties included riding in the military escort to Queen Elizabeth during her coronation in 1958 and training others for similar roles. He retired to pursue new adventures while still young, but nevertheless as the most senior riding instructor and horse trainer in the British Army. It is no surprise that Bob was snatched up by the thriving and nationally renowned Bloomfield Open Hunt Club as Riding Master and Stable Manager. He laughed at recalling that he applied for the position thinking that the club was in Canada, as that is what he was told by the British Army Major who suggested he consider it. Upon moving to the U.S. in the winter of 1968, he and wife Peggy took up temporary residence in a Bloomfield Hills motel. The motel's housekeeping staff was bewildered that Bob and Peggy opened their windows each day as temperatures rose in that first spring. The motel was air conditioned. He guided his pupils in whatever discipline they enjoyed, but his passion was eventing. This equestrian version of a triathlon is rooted in the cavalry test requiring mastery of all three English riding disciplines: dressage, cross country, and

practice recognizing each as an individual. Eight of our current members have already been in the Hunt field, and have expressed great interest in learning more about hounds.

January will also see us prepping for our first rally of the year, Quiz Rally. Rally is what we call our shows. Quiz is an unmounted rally where members are tested all day long on their knowledge as a horseman. Pony Clubbers test and "rally" according to their skill level. For instance, a beginner might be asked to identify any ten horse parts, where a more advanced clubber would be required to identify each individual bone, ligament, and tendon in a leg. All of our members will be studying hard to be ready for this early March event.

Hunt Photos: We are most fortunate to have some talented and devoted photographers that cover many of our hunts. To view the work of Photographer Peter Gilles just click on: www.metamoraphoto.com and then click on Recent Events. Additional photos may be viewed on the Metamora Hunt website: www.metamorahunt.com

Capping: Guests may hunt with the prior consent of one of our Masters of Foxhounds: Joseph Kent: 248-628-2065: Joseph Maday: 248-628-7203. The capping fee for regular hunts is \$55 for adults and \$25 for juniors. To make your arrangements to cap, please contact our Honorary Secretary Cindy Dillon at: cindy@dillonreo.com 586.531.1859

Hunt Activities:

Hunting: Wednesday and Saturday Mornings:
Call the Hunt Kennels for updates: 810-678-2711

Hound exercising: including Members is available most non hunting mornings. Huntsman and Staff walk hounds at a brisk pace, please call the Kennels (810-678-2711) for updates.

Calendar of Events

Metamora Hunt Annual Membership Meeting;
Saturday, January 22nd.

This meeting is open only to members with voting privileges (Individual or Family Members only).

Hunt Ball: The date is January 29th and we will be at Devils Ridge Golf Club this year. Marcia Turner (810-

show jumping. To foster the sport, he was the driving force in establishing the Michigan Combined Training Association, which later became The Eventing Association of Michigan. Always in demand, Bob and Peggy moved through a series of positions teaching riding and managing stables throughout southeastern Michigan, Maryland, and England. But he loved the Metamora Hunt Country and resided there until his passing. He was 82. Bob is survived by his dear wife Peggy of Oxford, Michigan and younger brother William who lives in England. Peggy and Bob celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 1, 2010.

796-3359) is heading the planning committee. Please contact her if you would like to help out, or if you have a silent auction item to offer.

Safety First:

By Bob Carden

A warm rider is a safe rider. Make an extra effort to keep yourself warm and comfortable while out hunting or exercising your horse this winter. You will be more alert, responsive, and flexible if you are not chilled.

Wearing a fleece neck gaiter is a good way to keep from losing body heat and a pair of ear flaps under your helmet is another important addition. You might try using those stick on toe warmers on top of your socks and perhaps just above the outside of your ankles. Those little hand warmer packs tucked inside your gloves really work too!

Be aware and stay safe out there.